

May 28, 2004

Judith M. Katz
Director
Air Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Judy:

In response to your request earlier this week, here is our current status on updating the Governor's recommendation on designations under the PM fine standard.

On February 23, 2004, Governor Robert Ehrlich submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a recommendation including two different options for establishing boundaries. The first option proposed fine particulate nonattainment areas consistent with the 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas. The second option designated three counties as nonattainment but promoted larger "control regions". The Governor's letter indicated that we would be meeting with stakeholders and updating the recommendation at some point in the future.

Maryland has met several times with stakeholders to discuss the recommendation and plans to meet again over the next several months before the recommendation is updated. At this time, Option 2 (4 counties as nonattainment) is our preferred approach for designating the new PM fine nonattainment areas. A critical part of our approach is that we plan to control all counties in Maryland that are in the area that influences the violations in Maryland and in areas downwind of Maryland.

The Maryland Department of the Environment looks forward to working with EPA Region 3 in finalizing the nonattainment boundaries. During this process, Maryland will continue to seek input from stakeholders in order to ensure clean air and economic prosperity in Maryland. Please do not hesitate to contact George (Tad) Aburn at (410) 537-3242 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Snyder, Director
Air & Radiation Management Administration

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Kendl P. Philbrick, Acting Secretary, MD Department of the Environment
George (Tad) Aburn, Program Manager, Air Quality Planning and Monitoring Program

